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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Korea

DATE: 25X1

SUBJECT Economic Information: Public Discontent in
North Korea

DIST. 4 June 1947

PAGES 1

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1. The value of Soviet Occupation currency in North Korea has decreased as follows during the first three months of 1947:

January.....100 won equalled 105 Soviet notes.
February....100 won equalled 115-120 Soviet notes.
March.....100 won equalled 130 Soviet notes.

2. Food riots occurred in Huchang (Kosho, 127-03, 41-25) and Chasong (Jijo, 126-38, 41-28) during late February and early March 1947. The riots are attributed to last year's poor harvest and the occupation of the district in November 1946 by 40-50,000 Chinese Communist and Korean Independent Volunteer Army troops who drained local food reserves.

a. In Huchang 5,000 people attacked the local police station and demanded food. Following this attack they raided the billet of the Korean Independent Volunteer Army and removed all foodstuffs.

b. In Chasong another food riot occurred soon after the one in Huchang. Police dispatched from Sinuiju (Shingishu, 124-24, 40-06) could not quell the riot; whereupon Soviet elements were sent for and the riot subsided.

note: Previously reported: Food riots in North Pyongan Province from the middle of January to the first week of February.)

3. The number of Koreans smuggling themselves from Sinuiju to Antung is increasing as follows: In January 1947, 67 crossed the Yalu River; in February, 116; in March, 418; and from 1-7 April, 219. Not included is a considerable number of Korean farmers known to have crossed the Yalu without informing the Antung Korean Association upon arrival. A number of Koreans now entering the Northeast had at one time migrated to Manchukuo and then returned to Korea after the Japanese surrender. Their reason for returning now to the Northeast is that the North Korea People's Committee refuses to grant them land in North Korea because they once resided outside the country.

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